

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5293

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0517

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TD

SUBJECT: YOUTH PARA

REF. A. STATE 070302

B. POS 0463

THE FOLLOWING ARE NARRATIVE RESPONSES TO QUESTIONNAIRE
ON YOUTH PROGRAM AS PARTIALLY ANSWERED IN REF B:

1- B. YOUTH CATEGORIES:

WEIGHTING OF TARGET CATEGORIES LARGELY REFLECTS MAKE- UP
OF CURRENT LEADERSHIP, AS WE FORESEE CONTINUATION OF PRESENT
PATTERN IN WHICH MAJOR DECISIONS AFFECTING OUR INTERESTS ARE
NOW MADE BY POLITICAL LEADERSHIP (CURRENTLY THIS EQUATES TO
ONE MAN, THE PRIME MINISTER) WITH THE ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE
OF CLOSELY RESTRICTED GROUP OF POLITICAL CRONIES AND KEY
CIVIL SERVANTS. PATTERN MAY BECOME LESS CENTRALLY CONTROLLED,
BUT PROFESSIONAL POLITICIANS AND SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS WILL
CONTINUE TO CALL THE TUNE. CATEGORIES ASSIGNED FIVE AND TEN
PER CENT RATINGS ARE THOSE LIKELY TO PRODUCE SOME SIGNIFICANT
LEADERS (MOST PROBABLY OF OPPOSITION STRIPE).

I- C. SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON US INTERESTS OVER NEXT TWO TO FOUR
YEARS BY YOUTH GROUPS IS UNLIKELY. THEY ARE FOR MOST PART A
COLLECTION OF " HAVE NOTS" WITH LIMITED POWER. OLD BOY NETWORK
OPERATINK IN RELATIVELY SMALL BUREAUCRACY LEAVES LITTLE ROOM
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AT TOP FOR YOUNG BLOOD. SHOULD PM WILLIAMS UNEXPECTEDLY DISAPPEAR FROM PICTURE, YOUNGER LEADERS COULD, OF COURSE, EXPECT TO MOVE UP IN POWER HIERARCHY, PARTICULARLY IF CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION OF POLITICAL SCENE ENSUES.

II- B. OBJECTIVES:

FY 74 CASP FOR TRINIDAD REFLECTS THAT MAJOR US INTERESTS ARE INCREASINGLY IN ECONOMIC FIELD. DIRECT INVESTMENT CONCENTRATED IN PETROLEUM AND GAS INDUSTRIES NOW APPROACHES \$750 MILLION. YOUTH COMMITTEE FOCUSES ON YOUNG LEADERS MOST LIKELY TO HAVE INFLUENCE ON ECONOMIC POLICY PLANNING, DIRECTING ITS EFFORTS TOWARD INCREASING UNDERSTANDING OF US INTERNATIONAL TRADE, MONETARY AND INVESTMENT POLICIES, ESPECIALLY AS THEY AFFECT TRINIDAD.

WHILE CATEGORIES ASSIGNED FIVE AND TEN PER CENT RATINGS INHERENTLY IMPORTANT, MAJORITY OF POPULACE IS ALREADY FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD US AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS ARE RELATIVELY STRONG. ACTIVITIES OF HOSTILE FORCES MINIMAL BUT VOLATILE NATURE OF CARIBBEAN SOCIETY DEMANDS CLOSE WATCH FOR SIGNS OF UNEXPECTED POLITICAL CHANGE. FOR EXAMPLE CONTINUING HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT COULD BREED SERIOUS ACTIVIST DISCONTENT.

III- A. RESOURCES:

(1) CU SHOULD CONSIDER ORGANIZING REGIONAL CARIBBEAN STAG PROGRAMS SINCE LOW RAG POSTS USUALLY CANNOT FUND THIS RESOURCE ALONE. AS RESPECTED AMERICAN SPECIALISTS, STAG' S COULD BE USED TO REACH IMPORTANT YOUTH AUDIENCES.

(2) INCREASE NEEDED IN POST' S REPRESENTATION FUNDS TO FACILITATE CONTACT WORK OF YOUTH COMMITTEE.

(3) UNFORTUNATELY, CURRENT GOTT POSITION ON FOREIGN GRANTS-- I. E., INSISTING ON RIGHT TO SELECT RECIPIENTS-- PRECLUDES POST' S UTILIZING VALUABLE IV PROGRAM FOR YOUTH LEADERS.

III- B. PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCES ARE SCHOLARSHIPS TO AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AWARDED BY US OIL COMPANIES OPERATING HERE. PROGRAMS USUALLY GEARED TOWARD TRAINING IN ENGINEERING AND BUSINESS WHICH ULTIMATELY OF BENEFIT TO US ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN TRINIDAD.

III- C. N/ A. NO PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS IN TRINIDAD.

IV- B. RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF " YOUTH":

YOUTH LEADERS DO NOT AT PRESENT OCCUPY POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE CRITICAL TO US INTERESTS. YOUTH ELEMENT SUFFERS
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FROM HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, LACK OF INSPIRING LEADERSHIP, APATHY, AND ALL TOO FREQUENT DESIRE TO EMIGRATE. NEVERTHELESS, SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE POLITICAL HIERARCHY IS OVERDUE. TRINIDAD STANDS OUT AS INDEPENDENT COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN STATE WITH OLDEST AND LONGEST STANDING GROUP IN POWER. INEVITABLE SHIFT OF POWER FROM ONE POLITICAL GENERATION TO THE NEXT IN T& T SHOULD

MAKE YOUTH ELEMENT MORE IMPORTANT IN FUTURE.
MARSHALL

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